

The background of the entire page is a photograph of Stonehenge at sunset. The sky is a deep orange and red, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a silhouette of the ancient stone monument. The title 'Here Matters' is written in a large, white, cursive script. Below it, '& so does' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, and 'West Knoyle' is in a white, cursive script.

Here Matters

& so does
West Knoyle

Your community magazine
Including a guide to local events

July/August 2023

A note from the Editor:

I very often get requests to print photos or articles in regard foolish and selfish parking, people dropping litter, dog poo (oh, don't start me off) and children being downright stupid. The following is rather more serious and I am supporting this publication in the hope that those involved will be deterred and their parents might like to have a few words with them. I have on this occasion resisted the temptation to print their photos. What do you think? Should I publish them?

"As you are more than likely aware, we were vandalised when the changing rooms of the Bowls Club had the mirrors in both sex rooms smashed and then a bowl was thrown through a window in the gents half. The resultant bits of glass were strewn all over that end of the green, they had previously broken the side window to gain access, we cleaned up the green and had the windows replaced at a cost of £200.00 (it is toughened glass).

We were then vandalised a second time, very shortly after having the windows replaced. This time both men's windows were broken again, as well as one of the main door windows, and the fluorescent light fitting in the gent's side was smashed, this time we are having unbreakable polymer windows installed at a cost of £700.00+.

We have also installed CCTV and remote lighting at a cost to the Club that we can little afford

We have two photos of youths on the roof of the pavilion with their bikes, these were previously shown on Mere Matters and Facebook, we do not know if these youths were involved or not, but a quiet word by their parents would not go amiss.

To the individuals involved, your actions are no more than mindless vandalism, to the club it is expense and disruption to our normal methods of working that as a club we can ill afford."

Ed.

Digital Inclusion

Wiltshire Council's South West Wiltshire Area Board has agreed to fund a small digital inclusion project for older and vulnerable adults who are currently struggling to get the most out of engaging online on a laptop, tablet, or iPad. (The sessions do not cover mobile phone support.)

The proposed plan is to run 4-6 digital inclusion support sessions this September. If you are interested in joining these sessions, or know anyone who would benefit from this support, please contact Karen Linaker on 01722 434697 or email karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk by mid July to register your interest.



Mere and District Day Centre



Having a wonderful time – wish you were here!

Could you be just the person we are looking for?

- *Enjoy working with older people?*
- *New to Mere and want to make new friends?*
 - *Looking for a new direction?*

Our Management Committee is looking for lively, innovative people to help take us forward into the next exciting phase of our development to meet the needs of our growing community of older people.

If this describes you, we would love to hear from you.

To discuss the opportunities available, please contact the Chair:

Jane Mason, on 01747 861296, or 07517863926, or email:

chair@meredaycentre.org.uk

www.meredaycentre.org.uk

Charity No. 1033900 www.meredaycentre.org.uk

Mere Town Council

I shall attend the opening of the redeveloped Walnut Road Playground at the same time as the deadline for copy for Mere Matters. I have already had a quick look at it and I hope that many children will enjoy it in the coming years. This has been done with section 106 funding that comes to Mere from residential developments. There are rules about what the money can be spent on but we are actively engaged in planning future developments. The next will be improvements to footpaths 66 and 50 which lead from Clement's Lane up to the bridge at Lordsmead. We plan to make them into a safer and more useable route for pedestrians from that area into the centre of Mere. It will include lighting to guide walkers, especially in the winter months. Where we are able, we hope to improve more of the assets of Mere Town for the benefit of residents. Our progress in these matters is guided by our Project Co-ordinator, Roger, who deals with all of the constraints and conditions that would bind our ambitions.

At the June Town Council meeting we heard about the outcome of the Internal Audit of our accounts – all is as it should be and soon we will be presenting the accounts to an external auditor! Managing our financial matters is both important and demanding and we are indebted (perhaps not the best word) to our Town Clerk, Lindsey, for the excellent way in which this is done – thank you Lindsey.

The Town Councillors approved my ambition that we look back at the Mere Parish Plan 2005 and review it as a starting point to producing a Mere Town Plan 2025. This will take time and effort and I hope that we can incorporate the views of as many residents as possible. What is it for? If we get it right, it will guide decisions made in the coming years with a view to developing Mere Town's assets for the benefit of all who live here and those who visit Mere. I hope that it will help us to put our case forward with Wiltshire Council to gain their support and for Wiltshire Council to consult more on the future of Mere as they see it (it does feel sometimes, out here – a long way away from Trowbridge, that asking us what we want for Mere is an afterthought).

I attended the LHFIFG meeting to hear about progress with the change of speed limit on the approach to Mere from the south and was interested to hear that lowering the speed of vehicles through built up areas was a concern across the area. I was also amazed to hear how much a few changes can cost and how Wiltshire Council are hoping for towns and parishes to take on more of the cost. There was some information about the new company taking on highways improvements and sadly, how slow a start they had made. Hopefully, some of the poor road surfaces in Mere area can be dealt with before they cause accidents and damage to vehicles.

I completed a stakeholder survey on the bus services available in Mere and tried to put the case that we need the present provision to remain and indeed would

benefit from more services. I understand that more surveys are to follow and hope that, if you have the opportunity, you will complete them. I have been using the services both to Gillingham and to Salisbury and they are good. It may take an effort to not jump in the car but I would recommend it. I fear that services will be cut if there are not enough bums on seats.

Finally, I wish you a good summer with plenty of blue skies and enough rain to keep our groundsmen cutting the green grass for us to enjoy.

John Jordan,, Chair, Mere Town Council

for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.

lindseywood@merewilts.org  860701  merewilts.org

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

I am very sorry to hear that the Butt of Sherry is having to restrict their hours of opening. As an important asset to Mere I hope the situation will improve.

Police Matters:

At a committee meeting, I recently raised the point that we find it difficult to discuss police matters with the Police as crimes have to be reported etc. on the internet or 101, Chief Constable Roper in her statement made reference to my point and said improvements would be made through Mobile Police Stations across Wiltshire. I reminded her that we have a Police Station which can and is used.

Road Issues:

The surface of High Street in Zeals is in a poor condition., It's near the county border with Dorset - the line runs along the brow of the hill almost exactly half way up - and the standard of surfacing compared with the other side of the border puts Wiltshire to shame! I continue to apply pressure on Wiltshire Full Council that action is required on Wiltshire's roads. Wiltshire Council hosted an 'all about potholes' webinar on Monday 19 June from 6pm, for residents and members to find out more about how Wiltshire manage potholes in the county. It explained how potholes are inspected, repairs prioritised and filled throughout the county, as well as information on long-term maintenance schedules and resurfacing. I could not see the long term plan was good for areas such as Mere and the surrounding villages.

Local Plan Review

A briefing note has been prepared in advance of the publication of the emerging Local Plan Review (LPR), so that Members are informed about the way in which housing land requirements are calculated and any implications emerging from government changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Local authorities have a statutory duty to make sure that they are planning for sufficient homes to meet the need for their area. For the period 2020-2038,

Wiltshire needs to provide for sufficient land to deliver 36,738 homes. The LPR will only be allocating enough land that is absolutely required. It will take account of homes that have already been built since 2020 and committed (including housing with planning permission or allocated within existing plans that are not yet built), together with other sources of new housing supply that will be provided over the plan period. Wiltshire are proposing to make changes that will take effect from spring 2023. The LPR is one of the most important strategic documents for Wiltshire Council. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to renew their Plan every five years and should have an up-to-date plan. Wiltshire's Local Plan is already eight years old. The lack of an up-to-date Local Plan is harming the council's ability to plan for the right growth, in the right locations. A new Local Plan will help the council to meet its zero carbon aspirations for all future developments. Failure to have an up-to-date Local Plan affects the council's five-year housing land supply, encouraging speculative development. Lack of progress on updating the Local Plan puts the council at risk of having its planning powers removed through government intervention. A new Local Plan will allow the council to secure high-quality development, in keeping with the county's heritage and setting. The LPR will deliver a choice of housing types, including affordable homes, to meet future housing needs and not leave this to speculative housing developers. The LPR delivers much more than housing. It secures high-quality employment space for businesses, providing jobs for local people and more.

Lynch Close:

I recently attended The Housing Board meeting regarding the future of Lynch Close, Mere. The report states *"However, it is recognised that most residents will have moved to Lynch Close believing it to be their last house move, and the prospect of another move will be daunting. However, not refurbishing or redeveloping also has significant resident impact, as the poor quality and lack of sustainability of the existing accommodation causes it to fall ever further behind modern acceptable standards."*

When the development of the old Fives Court is finalized, it is hoped that residents from Lynch Close can be relocated there.

The report mentions nothing of what is proposed specifically for The Mere Day Centre, which is a very active and good for the mental wellbeing of the residents. This little community has a further group called Lynch Close residents that organize their own day trips with a mini bus. This is a active little community that wants and needs to stay together. The Day Centre needs to function while the work proceeds to enhance the tenant's wellbeing. I would also like you all to be aware the Ex warden's accommodation purchased under RTB, was by a local fireman, he needs to be in Mere. One of the board members questioned also how much more increase in percentage is the rent likely to be. The Board has voted to demolish the bungalow area of Lynch Close and redevelop.

Contd on page 9.....


Summer Activities:

Wiltshire Council is working with providers and asking community groups to come forward to help provide activities for eligible children this summer after a provider has announced it has ceased to trade. The Council was informed Learn By Design was ceasing to trade and so would not be putting on activities for the Wiltshire Council FUEL Programme this summer. The unexpected development means the council has had to rapidly review what is possible for the summer holidays in extremely short timescales. Council staff have pulled out all the stops to build a plan to encourage providers and organise activities in Wiltshire during the summer holidays. FUEL (Food Unity, Energy, Laughter) is a Wiltshire programme funded by the Department for Education to help young people who are eligible for benefits related free school meals have free access to activities and nutritious meals during the school holidays. The FUEL programme in Wiltshire has provided hundreds of children with activities and nutritious meals during school holidays.

On The Buses:

Wiltshire Council has been awarded £2.1m by the Department for Transport (DfT) to spend on improving bus services in the county. The council's Business Plan sets out its mission to have vibrant, well-connected communities, and includes a pledge to improve rural bus links and the extra funding will be used to encourage more people to use buses, as outlined in the Bus Service Improvement Plan. Mere and Zeals at present has a reasonably good temporary bus service to Gillingham however the Mere area needs more buses. Buses are vital to connect people in a rural county like Wiltshire, and this funding, along with measures such as the Government's recently extended £2 bus fare promotion, will help Wiltshire in general.

Wiltshire are still short of placements for foster children and looking for those interested.

George Jeans  07710 441599 george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk

Save the Children -

Rain or Shine Theatre Company invites you to witness the comical confusion and chaotic capers of Shakespeare's hilarious masterpiece 'The Comedy of Errors'! So come along - Pack your bubbly, chairs, and picnics and join us at Upper Leigh Farm on Friday, **21st July 2023** at 7.30pm.

From Times Gone By!

Wilts Summer Assizes

James Gray, for stealing ten cheeses, the property of John White Jun., at Mere – 12 months imprisonment..

*Joseph Gray, for stealing a lamb, the property of Christopher Rose Jun., at Mere—**Death.** (Whilst Death was recorded it was probably not commuted).*

Devizes & Wilts Gazette 21 July 1831

On Sunday last the town and vicinity Mere experienced a great treat, by several merry peals from the Church bells, in consequence of the arrival ... of a new bell, cast by Mr Kingston, bell-founder at Bridgewater; and it is confidently hoped that ... Mere will revive the art bell-ringing. for which they were formerly famous. One of the bells bears the date of 1670, and is generally supposed have been presented to the inhabitants on the restoration of Charles II, for their loyalty to their lawful, much beloved, though unfortunate Sovereign, who concealed himself about this part of the country, and frequently honored Mere with his royal presence.

Salisbury & Wilts Journal 25 August 1828

Martyn Beardsley

Please Stop moaning!

Do you not know how lucky you are? This world was created not just for a few. So, enjoy every second with those surrounding you.

Stop moaning about what life throws at you each day. Stop moaning the sky is grey and not blue. Stop moaning that things are not free or that the sun is just too hot for me. There have to be clouds so the sun can come out.

There are times when life will be hard, but always look for the silver lining and don't be glum. Don't waste your life away, it is too short.

Life has its own course to take, so smile, don't frown. Accentuate the positive and try not to be negative. Be happy even if it's tipping down with rain; it will stop.

Do stop moaning about your life, because one day it will stop.

It is too easy to do nothing and moan. Do something positive, get involved and help make the world a better place. Don't leave life for others to live.

Copy date for the **SEPTEMBER 2023** issue

Closing deadline is: **16:00hrs on Wednesday 23rd August**

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425
editor@merematters.co.uk or deliver to 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU.

Please be sure to state your name and a contact telephone number to ensure inclusion.



The Suchana project in West Bengal is always up for a challenge. Currently, as well as their core work helping 'adivasi' children of all ages to gain basic skills and

the self-confidence needed to access mainstream education, they are participating in a new language learning initiative. The plan is to include the Santali language – one of the mother-tongue languages spoken by the children in the villages served by Suchana – among the 22 Indian languages being processed for online learning. To help with this, language-recording interviews are currently being held among Suchana children and families – causing much interest and excitement. The thought that their language is being included in this way is a source of pride and affirmation.

To learn more, and to support Suchana's work – and to enjoy meeting each other - everyone is welcome to a **Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy** from 10.30am on **Tuesday 4th July**. This will be held at **Holly Cottage, North Road** (home of Alison and Tom Beall - near the junction with Upper Water Street)

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553, Chair, Mere Suchana Support Group
judithvthompson@aol.com

St Michael's Fair.

Photos courtesy of George Jeans.



All on parade



Mere Ukelele group

Little Angels

This is an informal group where Mums, Grandparents and little ones come on Tuesday morning at the Grove Building, Church Street. A calm environment in a busy week.

Running for a year now it has been a joy seeing babies start walking and mixing with their peers.

We are having a Summer break but are back on **12th September**. Don't forget Tuesdays at The Grove 9.30 - 11am.

Enjoy the Summer. Thank you for your support. Penny and Jan

Penny Fraser penny.fraser2@gmail.com

Mere Gardening Club

A big thank you to all the participants of the Scarecrow Festival After a very slow start with entries, the people of Mere pulled out all the stops and from the feedback coming in, it seems that it was a great success. We would appreciate any feedback, positive or negative which will help us prepare for the next one in two years time.

There are far too many people to thank for all their efforts but none of it would have been possible without our sponsors, Walton House Antiques, Jeans Electricals, The Beauty Box, F.J.Chalke, The Butt of Sherry and L.C. Hill Funeral Services.

The results will be announced and prize winners and the sponsors will be invited to our next meeting on **12th July at the Grove Building 19.00**. Members, please remember to bring along your fuchsias for judging. The committee will be judging the children's colouring competition on 23rd June and the winners will be notified. The children's work will be on display on **12th July** at the Grove Building and also in the library.

Our meeting on **9th August** is our Summer Garden Evening for members which will be held at No 1 The Grange, Water Street by kind permission of Johnny and Georgie Moore. Please bring along a plate of nibbles to share. Wine and soft drinks will be provided (partners welcome).

Les Manwaring Chair Mere Gardening Club

Rose Heesom  07791 559674 roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk  meregardenclub.org.uk

Mere School - David Rich - new deputy head teacher

My name is David Rich and I will be the new deputy head teacher at Mere School, replacing Paula Loxton who has been in her post, as deputy to Mrs Williamson, for 23 years.

It is an honour to take on this role, which gives me the privilege to serve the children and the families of Mere; the community in which I have lived for most of my life, both as a child and pupil at Duchy Manor Middle School and as an adult.



I started my teaching career as a volunteer at Mere School in 2006 when I helped the staff in Blue (Reception) Class. This inspired me to train as a primary school teacher, which I duly did through higher education at Bath Spa University and the University of Gloucestershire. I was lucky enough to be trained at Mere School through the Graduate Teacher Programme. It was during this training year, whilst I was on placement at The Mead School, that I applied for my first teaching job at Walwayne Court School in Trowbridge. I started as a newly-qualified teacher at Walwayne Court and worked my way up to proudly become English Leader, having taken charge of Personal, Social and Health Education along the way.

In 2014, I moved back to Mere School to take up the post of Year 4 teacher and to lead English. In the 9 years that I have worked at Mere, I have been lucky to work alongside a fantastic team of staff, under the leadership of Mrs Williamson. My three children Evie (18), George (15) and Sonny (12) have all attended the school and enjoyed many fantastic achievements there.

In September this year, I will take up my new role at Mere School, automatically assuming the role of Teaching and Learning Leader, as well as becoming a Designated Safeguarding Lead. I aspire to make positive changes to the curriculum and to the pedagogy of the school and I am looking forward to working alongside the brilliant staff team and the families of our community. As well as having a clear focus on maintaining the high academic standards and the fantastic reputation of the school, I aim to foster close links with our community by creating opportunities for parents to come into school and work alongside their children on exciting family learning projects.

I feel very fortunate to have been awarded the position of deputy head teacher, and I relish both the new responsibilities and the new challenges that the role will bring. What I most look forward to though, is working hard to build on the recent success that Mere School has achieved and to further improve outcomes for the pupils and the families of Mere. The school is expanding in size, both in terms of the number of pupils and physically. We have recently taken back some of the classrooms that haven't been used as such since the closure of Duchy Manor Middle School. All staff at the school aim to continue to provide an excellent educational setting for the young people of Mere.

David Rich

Mere & District Link Scheme

May was again a busy month with 109 trips including 26 to Salisbury District Hospital.

Our volunteer drivers take clients to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and even shopping when resources allow. We do both long and short trips. For example, in May we had trips to Basingstoke, Bath, Southampton and Weston-Super-Mare hospitals and to appointments in Mere and Gillingham. **if you would like to find out more about volunteering as a driver, please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.**

Once you have an appointment, please call 01747 860096 to book a Link driver. As a charity we do not charge for trips but ask for a donation. **Please remember that our co-ordinators work in their own homes – we do not have an office - so keep calls to 9-5 Monday to Friday and only use the 01747 860096 number.** Also, please try to give us a minimum of 48 hours notice (not including Saturdays and Sundays) as we cannot guarantee our co-ordinator will be at home to arrange last minute requests.

When you read this, we will have had the Link Scheme AGM. If you were able to come, I hope you had an interesting and enjoyable evening.

John FitzGerald Chair  860096  merelink.org.uk

Ukes at The Butt of Sherry

Calling all ukulele players. Come along to The Butt of Sherry and meet other players who enjoy strumming and singing. We have great fun and play well known songs from the sixties, folk, country and songs that are easy to play! All abilities welcome.

No meeting in July due to holidays. The Butt of Sherry has new opening times so we will meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Bring your ukulele and join us on **Thursday 10th August** at 7.30pm. Check out our Facebook page 'Ukes at The Butt' for our song list

Maggie Holmes maggieholmes101@gmail.com

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

At the moment we are continuing our always-exciting search for the right play to present later this year as our Autumn Production. Part of this process is to hold play readings, which provide the best opportunity to identify suitable scripts from which to choose. So we have arranged two such readings so far: the first is on **Thursday July 6th at 7.30p.m.** in the Lecture Hall, and the second on **Monday July 10th** at 8.00 p.m. in the Green Room (also in the Lecture Hall), immediately after our monthly meeting. Anyone at all is most welcome to attend and take part in these readings, even if you are not currently a member of the Society - what better way to try us out than to have a go! We look forward to meeting all interested people - just turn up on the day and see what happens!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 jenny@flaxmill.org.uk

Mere Art Group

The Art Work presented in The Grove building at The Fete on Saturday 10th June was received very favourably - to quote words from Ann Dethick "it was a great success and everyone has been very complimentary about it".

Thanks go to Sue Green for coordinating the Art Work, and to all members of the Art Group for their contributions.

The Art contribution for this edition of Mere Matters is by John Steenson - water-colour, ink and pencil on card.



Helge Brock helgewallenbrock@gmail.com

Diary Dates (Recurring events are first shown in **Bold** then in **Blue**).

Venue Key for Diary :

AYP - Andy Young Pavilion
CP - Main Car Park
Drs - Surgery
GB - Grove Building

L - Lecture Hall
Lib - Library
MSC - Social Club
RMC - Castle St Car Park

StM - St Michaels Church
URC - United Ref Church
VH - Visit Hillbrush
WT - Walnut Tree Inn

July

1	Sat	10:30 19:30	Coffee Morning (every Sat) Shreen Harmony	URC StM
2	Sun			
3	Mon	09:30 17:45 18:00 20:30	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon) Yoga (every Mon) Scouting (every Mon) Mere Walking Group (Roger & Mary)	L L GB George Inn
4	Tues	08:00 09:00 14:00 18:20	Foot Clinic Little Angels (every Tues) Short Walk (J Way) Zumba (every Tues)	GB GB CP L
5	Wed	09:30 14:00 14:30 18:30	Tai-Chi (every Weds) Fitness & Friendship Pilates (every Weds) Karate (every Weds)	GB GB L L
			<i>Railway Modellers</i>	
6	Thurs	10:00 10:00 11:00 14:00 14:00 17:00 19:30	Art Group (every Thurs) Hearing Aid Clinic @ United Reform Church Rhyme Time (every Thurs) Rubber Bridge (every Thurs) Health Diabetes Prevention Girlguiding (every Thurs) Shreen Harmony (every Thurs)	GB URC Lib L L GB URC
7	Fri	13:45 17:45 19:30	Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start. Every Fri) Yoga Workshop FoMM Talk	GB L GB
8	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning</i>	
9	Sun	10:30	Tiddlers and Toddlers Sale	L
10	Mon		<i>Scouting, Yoga</i>	
11	Tues	08:00 14:30	Foot Clinic Mothers Union	GB GB
			<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	
12	Wed	19:30	Gardening Club	GB
			<i>Tai Chi, Karate, Pilates, Railway Modellers</i>	
13	Thurs		<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony, Guiding</i>	
14	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
15	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning, Fair Trade Stall</i>	
16	Sun	14:00	Mere Walking Group (Roger & Mary)	Salisbury St Car Park

		Fair Trade Stall after morning service		StM
17	Mon	Yoga		
18	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
		14:30	Mothers Union	GB
		Little Angels, Zumba		
19	Weds	14:00	Fitness & Friendship	GB
		19:00	Merekits Womens Institute	GB
		Tai-Chi, Karate, Pilates, Railway Modellers		
20	Thurs	14:00	Quilters (every Thurs)	GB
		Rhyme Time, Art, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony		
21	Fri	19:00	Carnival Quiz	GB
		Dup Bridge		
22	Sat	10:00	First Aid for Parents – Keep a Beat	L
		Coffee Morning		
23	Sun			
24	Mon	Yoga		
25	Tues	Zumba		
26	Weds	09:00	Mere Jelly	VH
		14:30	PennyBank Writers	L
		Tai-Chi, Karate, Pilates, Railway Modellers		
27	Thurs	Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony		
28	Fri	Dup Bridge		
29	Sat	19:00	Oasis Bingo	L
		20:30	Rhythm Junkie	MSC
		Coffee Morning		
30	Sun			
31	Mon	Yoga		

Times, events and venues shown cannot be guaranteed as being correct

August

1	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
		18:20	Zumba (every Tues)	L
2	Wed	09:30	Tai-Chi	GB
		18:30	Karate (every Weds)	L
		Railway Modellers		
3	Thurs	10:00	Art Group (every Thurs)	GB
		11:00	Rhyme Time (every Thurs)	Lib
		14:00	Rubber Bridge (every Thurs)	L
		14:00	Health Diabetes Prevention	L
		19:30	Shreen Harmony (every Thurs)	URC
4	Fri	13:45	Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start. Every Fri)	GB
5	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning (every Sat)	URC
6	Sun			
7	Mon	17:45	Yoga (every Mon)	L
8	Tues	Zumba		
9	Wed	19:30	Gardening Club	GB

		<i>Karate, Railway Modellers</i>		
10	Thurs	19:30	Ukes at The Butt of Sherry <i>Rhyme Time, Art, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony</i>	Butt of Sherry
11	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
12	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning, Fair Trade Stall</i>	
13	Sun			
14	Mon		<i>Yoga</i>	
15	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
16	Weds	14:00 19:00	Fitness & Friendship Merekits Womens Institute <i>Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	GB GB
17	Thurs		<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony</i>	
18	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
19	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning</i>	
20	Sun		<i>Fair Trade Stall after morning service</i>	StM
21	Mon			
22	Tues		<i>Zumba</i>	
23	Weds		<i>Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	
24	Thurs		<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony</i>	
25	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
26	Sat	20:30	Mustang Sally	MSC
27	Sun			
28	Mon			
29	Tues		<i>Zumba</i>	
30	Weds	09:00 14:30	Mere Jelly PennyBank Writers <i>Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	VH L
31	Thurs		<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony</i>	

Times, events and venues shown cannot be guaranteed as being correct

Mere Carnival Committee

1932 was the very first date Mere held Carnival Day.

A tradition that has been kept alive for over 90 years. It survived World War 2 and more recently the COVID pandemic. We are on course to make the century. That is worth celebrating!



So, please, mark this date in your diaries for a day of music, entertainment, fun, delicious food, Ice cream, storm troopers and the evening procession of glitz, lights and a superb display of floats, majorettes and more.

Please keep your day free as events will start at around 4pm with music and entertainment right through until the evening procession at 7-30pm; make a date for **Saturday 16th September 2023**.

In the build up to the special day, we also have a Carnival Quiz evening on **Friday 21st July** at the **Grove Building** in Mere, which we will advertise around the town on the lead up. Refreshments and prizes will be up for grabs on the night.

It is so important that we continue giving money to the good causes we support; so, please, buy the Megadraw tickets for a chance to win the huge prize of **£1000!** The tickets are available in all the town businesses as well as The George, The Walnut Tree and The Butt of Sherry.

To keep up to date with events and news go to www.merecarnival.co.uk or follow us on Facebook 'Mere Carnival'

Mere Carnival Committee

Mere Jelly

The last Wednesday of the month is the Mere Jelly day. This is an opportunity for a change of scene for those of us who work alone, from home or just want a bit of variety in our working day.

We meet at Visit Hillbrush from 9 am - 12 noon. In July - the 26th and in August - the 30th. Join us for the whole morning or just drop in for a coffee and a chat.



Jenni Bell ☎ 860400

Mere Theatre Club

As you read this in high summer we are taking bookings for the autumn: a visit to a stunning stately home; a sizzling musical and a Christmas treat.

If you would like to join in do get in touch as we'll be planning for the winter before long!

Madelaine Morris ☎ 861833 madsmorris@gmail.com

Petanque in Mere:

Unfortunately, Petanque (boules) at the pool by the Primary School has not caught on. However it will carry on and sessions will continue to take place on Saturday mornings, Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons. Despite the lack of numbers, progress is being made in the local League and Mere Mortals have, at the time of going to print, won more games than they have lost and should finish in a respectable position come September. The Primary School will be pleased to bring pupils over to have a taste of the game on their French Day. This rolling stone is failing to gather moss but we have had some beautiful weather this summer, just perfect for throwing steel balls around and aiming for that cochenet (little pig) also called a jack, and you don't even have to cross the Channel to do it.

Colin Senneck 📞 706008 colin2423@sky.com

Friends of Mere Museum

The Friends are eagerly awaiting their next event which is to be a talk by Jennie Elias, about Zeals House, a local, substantial, Grade I listed stone-built property of considerable architectural merit, with its own parkland and lake. The house has had a very varied history since the 14th century, which Jennie has expertly expounded in her just-published book about the house. The talk will take place on Friday **7th July** at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. in the **Grove Building**. Tickets for this exciting event are £7.50 each, to include a glass of wine, and can be obtained from the Library or at the door. This is a talk definitely not to be missed!

Jenny Wilding 📞 860908 jenny@flaxmill.org.uk

Mere Surgery –Staffing Update

Dr Sue Taylor is retiring on 31 July 2023. She has been with us since February 2020 and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her contribution to our patients over the last few years. We hope she may return to work some shifts in the future!

Dr Stuart Gallagher will be joining the surgery as a Partner on 1 August 2023. He has previously worked at the surgery during 2021/22 to complete the final part of his GP training. We look forward to welcoming him back on a permanent basis!

📞 860001 meresurgery.co.uk

Mere Snooker Club

Mere Snooker Club is thriving, but still looking for new members. Whatever your skill level, you would be welcome to join this friendly club.

Mike 📞 860163 meresnookerclub@gmail.com

Mere Waking Group

We have two walks this month, the first is on the evening of **Monday July 3rd**, and this is a walk to catch the full moon rising over Whitesheet Hill. The walk may involve some darkness, so be prepared. Meet at the George Inn, for a departure around **8.30 to 9pm**.

The second walk will be the normal Sunday afternoon walk on **July 16th**, meet **2pm in Salisbury Street Car Park** to share cars, if required.

Roger Laidler 📞 863447 Mary Wilson 📞 229609 wilsonsmere@gmail.com

Church Contact and Service Details

The Parish Church St Michael's the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: TBA vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mr Kit Stellard ☎ 07803 086161

Mr Richard Wilson ☎ 07966 244373

PCC Secretary: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

JULY

2 nd	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Family Service
9 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
16 th	Thurs	08:30 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
23 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
30 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion to be led by Archdeacon of Sherborne (The Ven. Anthony MacRow- Wood)

AUGUST

6 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Family Service
13 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Benefice Communion for West Knoyle (No service at St Michael's)
20 th	Thurs	08:30 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
27 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion

West Knoyle Parish Church St Mary the Virgin:Priest in Charge: TBA vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 830534 Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 830263

JULY

2 nd	Sun	09:30	Lay led service
9 th	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion
16 th	Sun	09:30	Matins
23 th	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion

AUGUST

6 th	Sun	09:30	Lay led service
13 th	Sun	09:30	Benefice Communion at West Knoyle
20 th t	Sun	09:30	Matins
30 th	Sun	10:00	Holy Communion

All Saints Church, Maiden BradleyPriest in Charge: TBA vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.ukContact: diana@dianabourne.co.uk**JULY**

2 nd	Sun	10:00	Catch up in the Village Hall
9 th	Sun	10:00	Lay led service
16 th	Sun	10:00	Morning Worship
23 th	Sun	10:00	Holy Communion
30 th	Sun	10:00	No Service

AUGUST

6 th	Sun	10:00	Catch up in the Village Hall
13 th	Sun	10:30	Benefice Communion at West Knoyle
20 th	Sun	10:00	Produce Show Service in Village Hall
27 th	Sun	10:00	No Service

Mere Information

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of "Mere Matters", please visit merewilts.org

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Elaine Laurence ☎ 0740 3845711 elainelaurence57@gmail.com**JULY**

2 nd	Sun	11:00	TBA
9 th	Sun	11:00	Mrs Jane Hurd
16 th	Sun	11:00	TBA
23 th	Sun	11:00	Rev Judith Thomson)
30 th	Sun	11:00	Rev. Colin Marsh (Holy Communion)

AUGUST

6 th	Sun	11:00	TBA
13 th	Sun	11:00	TBA
20 th	Sun	11:00	TBA
27 th	Sun	11:00	TBA

The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.

St Mary's has been closed and ALL liturgies are now at SS Luke and Teresa South Street, Wincanton BA9 9DH.

Parish Office: 01963 34408 hope.stlukeswincanton@outlook.com

Coffee morning at Visit Hillbrush on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10.30am.

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Mere Library

Monday: 10:00 – 14:00* and 14:00 – 19:00

Tuesday: 09:30 – 17:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 14:00*

Thursday: 09:30 – 17:00

Friday: 09:30 – 17:00

Saturday: 09:30 – 13:00

* Volunteer operated opening hours.

Sally-Ann, Mere Senior Library Assistant

Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	admin@grovebuildingmere.org.uk	☎ 0771 471 8625
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	☎ 861063
URC Church Hall:	Mrs E Laurence	☎ 07403 845711

Mere Girlguiding

Mere Rainbows and Brownies have been out and about over the past month.

Mere Brownies visit to fire station.

The Brownies visited the Fire station in Mere in May. They had a tour of the station and had the chance to sit in the fire engine! The Brownies also had a go at using the fire hoses. They all had a fabulous time. Thank you to all the crew at fire station for their time.



Mere Brownies Pack Holiday

The Brownies went on pack holiday for 2 nights in May at Berwick St James, Wiltshire South Girlguiding Centre. They took part in various fun activities, including archery, crafts and activities all based on a Royal theme. They also completed their camp skills builder stage 2, which included lighting fires and eating marshmallows and putting up a tent. The Brownies had a fabulous time and want to go on pack holiday again next year!!!



Mere Short Walk (J Way)

July's walk will take place on **Tuesday 4th** . Meet in the **Surgery Car Park** at 2p.m. for a 2/3 mile walk around the paths of Mere and refresh yourself afterwards with a cuppa and piece of Paul's delicious cakes in the Angel Tea Rooms. There will be no walk in August.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Fair Trade in Mere

I will be holding my usual stalls at the URC coffee mornings on **Saturday July 15th** and **August 12th** and after the morning service in **St Michaels on July 16th** and **August 20th**.

Do come and have a look as more and more items are being added each week.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Mere Social Club

So, a little bit more about the Mere Social Club.

We are open from 7pm Monday - Saturday and 11am - 4pm on Sunday

The club boasts a large hall which is available to hire for private parties, meetings, etc.

Just recently we have become home to the newly formed Mere Mortals Petanque Club and we are home to Mere Sunday League Football Team, who had a great start, winning several games in their first season.

Our next live music nights will be RHYTHM JUNKIE on **Saturday 29th July** and the popular covers band, MUSTANG SALLY, on **Saturday 26th August**. Come and join us at 8.30pm, entry is free and families (well behaved) are welcome

Elaine Laurence, club steward

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group

Thank you to everyone who either contributed a cake to our sell-out cake stall or who bought one. We hope you enjoyed eating them as much as we enjoyed the baking.

Our July meeting is on Tuesday 11th July at 2.30pm in The Grove Building when Ros Wardell will be the Speaker to talk about her recent expedition with Colonel John Blashford Snell and will be bringing along some copies of his latest book "From Utmost East to Utmost West" for anyone interested in learning more about his fascinating life. We are sure this will be yet another interesting afternoon and please do come along. We enjoy a brief but thoughtful small service followed by the talk and tea and often nice cake and biscuits.

On Tuesday 8th August we will be in St. Michael's Church for a service to celebrate Mary Sumner Day, our founder. We follow that with a bring and share picnic. Our Service starts at 12 noon followed by an enjoyable social time and picnic.

If you would like to know about Mother's Union please do contact one of us, details below, or come to one of our meetings where you will be warmly welcomed and you can decide if it is something you would enjoy.

Carol Lord ☎ 861923. Christabelle Kriticos ☎ 861065 Christine Marsh ☎ 861212

PennyBank Writers

PennyBank Writers enjoyed a successful afternoon at St. Michael's Church Fete and thank the organisers for the opportunity. The sun shone, crowds attended and it was an excellent relaunch of the fete after the bleak Covid years.

PBW welcomed people to their stall and were pleased with the sales of 'Mere Metre', a booklet of their poetry and verse produced especially for the occasion. Like its companion booklet, 'Merely Flash', it features a local landmark on the front cover, this time the Town Clock showing the William Barnes plaque. The group will be taking both these booklets to the Frome Small Publishers' Fair in early July.



Members Mary White & Pauline Morphy man the PBW stall at the church fete 2023.

Members continue to chalk up successes. Congratulations go to Mark Grant who was recently short-listed in two prestigious competitions – The Fish Flash Fiction, which attracted 1,127 entries! and The Writing District Short Story. Long-standing member, Pauline Morphy, has just published her second pony book entitled, 'Peter finds a pony pal'. It's an exciting story and an ideal book for pony mad children.

PBW meet in the Small Hall of Mere's Lecture Hall at 2.30p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month.

Adrienne Howell ☎ 860475

Mere Museum

The Rutter Scrapbooks exhibition is still in place, please do visit the museum to see it as some of the items are unique and possibly the only copies in existence. The new cabinets have arrived one of which will be used to house items for the permanent exhibition. These have been purchased with a legacy from Anne Lander and will each have a plaque in her memory.

We have been without internet since April so if you have any specific queries please leave a message with the library staff and I will contact you.

Rose Heesom 📠 07791 559 674 meremuseum@btinternet.com

Thinking of Advertising in Mere Matters?

To find out the costs or to book an advert, please contact Jane Kennedy directly by phone or email. jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com ☎ 860450

Shreen Harmony

We have had a very enjoyable term. We sang in Gillingham in May and raised £550 for 'Mindful Café'. It really was a lovely evening and we were joined by another choir, 'Doves Peace Choir'.

We are now in the final stages of rehearsals for our concert on **Saturday 1st July in St Michaels Church, Mere**. Please do come along at 7.30 and give us your support. Admission is free and there will be light refreshments and a retiring collection. We will be joined by the 'Water Thieves' and the Mere School music teacher, Megan Jennings.

This will be our last concert for this season.

This year, 'Shreen Harmony' are celebrating their Silver Anniversary and looking forward to many more concerts in the future.

Sandra Fisher ☎ 861980

Merekits - Womens Institute

Well, what a fabulous evening we had at our midsummer picnic and quiz night on 21st June where, amongst a feast of summer food (and a little wine), we joined with friends old and new to put our brains to the test with quiz questions on such topics as Silhouettes; Geography; Colours; Food and Drink and Songs and Films – the latter being "Catch phrase style". There was a really lovely and friendly atmosphere around the room the entire evening with the final scores being very close.

Next meeting is on **Wednesday July 19th** "An evening with Bacchus" – the Roman name for the Greek God of wine and pleasure! This will be a wine tasting evening with a twist, so you may want to organise a lift home!! It promises to be another evening of fun and laughter as we learn random facts about wines and put our taste buds to the test.

Wednesday August 16th During the evening we will enjoy an informative, guided walk through Mere – as far as the Lecture Hall and back – to learn about the history of some of the buildings and people of Mere in days gone by. Appropriate footwear is recommended for walking on pavements. We will return to base for refreshments and a chat. Guide pamphlets will be available to purchase at £1.00 each.

As always, new members are always welcome – you can "try us out" for three meetings before committing to being a fully paid up member. We meet at The Grove Building (opposite St Michael's Church) on the third Wednesday of each month from 7pm to 9pm. Keep a look out on Mere Mutters and/or Events in Mere Facebook pages for any last minute alterations to either of these meetings or call the number below for further information.

Yvonne Dalton 07974 470268 farriers216@btinternet.com

Ready, Set, Read! Summer Reading Challenge 2023



The Summer Reading Challenge is back at Mere Library this summer!

Children often have a dip in their reading over the summer - the Summer Reading Challenge, produced by the Reading Agency and delivered by libraries, has been proven to stop this, as well as changing children's attitudes in a positive way towards reading and libraries. The challenge is for 4-11 year olds to read 6 library books over 8 weeks, in return for various fun prizes, including a medal and certificate on completion.

This year the challenge runs from Saturday 15 July to Saturday 9 September. There will be an initial registration period in the first two weeks of the challenge, where children will receive a collector's folder, then after this period (from 31 July) they are invited to return to talk to staff and volunteers about the books they have read and start collecting their stickers. Children can also continue to register throughout the summer.

This year's challenge is sport and games themed, but children can read any six library books of their choice - in fact they can read more than six books if they want to! They will be asked about their reading when they collect stickers, but they don't have to be able to read; reading with a parent/carer also counts (written book reviews are acceptable too). Children can also read eBooks and listen to audiobooks if it suits them.

It's free to join the challenge and to take out a library membership. Children can also take part in the challenge online via the website: summerreadingchallenge.org.uk, where they can rate and review books, download activities, and access video content, games and quizzes.

For more information, ask the staff or volunteers at Mere Library, or email: libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk.

[We look forward to seeing you in the library this summer!](#)



In place of a 'Letter from the Churches' this time, a couple of points of interest from a recent Churches Together Meeting.

- ❖ **Mere Matters.** We discussed Mere Matters partly because all the Churches have been badly in arrears in our financial support for Mere Matters, and we agreed to encourage our member churches to put this right as soon as possible, and to make a donation from Churches Together straight away. In the light of the question recently raised by the editor we want to affirm very strongly that Mere Matters plays a very important role in our community in keeping us all in touch with each other and with what is going on and upcoming events. For those who don't use social media or even computers, very much, (which includes a good many of the elderly but some younger folk as well) it is especially important. One elderly lady was heard to say, 'if Mere Matters goes, that will be the end!' Social Media are very good at immediate communication, but can't replace something you can hold in your hand, read at leisure and refer to as needed. It is an excellent and beautifully produced community magazine, and long may it continue.
- ❖ **Church Sharing.** There are plans afoot for the Roman Catholic community in Mere, who no longer have a Church building of their own, to hold a monthly weekday Mass in St Michael's Church (which, of course, a long time ago, belonged to them anyway!) This development was very much welcomed by the meeting. A few unexpected problems and a certain amount of red tape have delayed the implementation of this plan a little, but we very much hope it will go ahead in the near future. Watch this space!

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553, judithvthompson@aol.com



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